



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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July 31, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-1264

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7020

Dear Senator Frist and Senator Reid:


We, as Governors representing Western states, are writing on behalf of farmers and ranchers suffering drought and other natural disasters.

For some time now, farmers and ranchers throughout the Western United States and other parts of the country have been either suffering or recovering from drought and other severe weather conditions. The current record setting heat wave in many of our states will impose considerable burdens on agriculture. Current forecasts in some areas are predicting more dry weather, with little promise of relief. These weather conditions, in combination with increased production costs, are taking a terrible toll on our farmers and ranchers, and their livestock and crops. In order to continue to provide America with quality, affordable food under these conditions, disaster assistance legislation is imperative.

It is vitally important that Congress passes legislation this year providing meaningful disaster relief to help farmers and ranchers through these disaster conditions.

We, the Western Governors, strongly encourage you to support disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers who have suffered severe losses due to these natural disasters.

Sincerely,


Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona


Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California


Bill Owens
Governor of Colorado

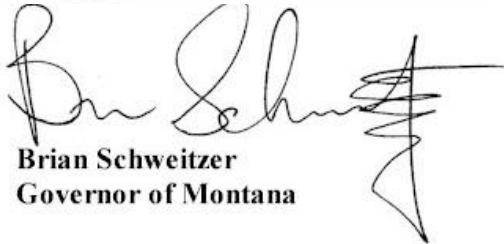

Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawaii

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James E. Risch
Governor of Idaho



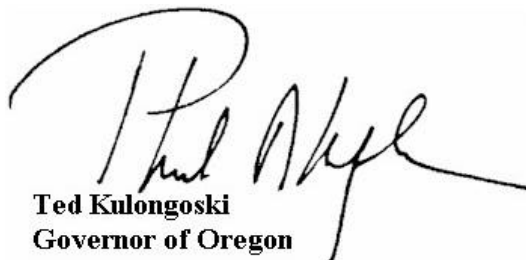
Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana



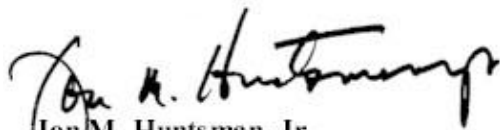
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Governor of Nevada




John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota



Ted Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon



Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor of Utah



Dave Freudenthal
Governor of Wyoming



Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of Kansas



Dave Heineman
Governor of Nebraska



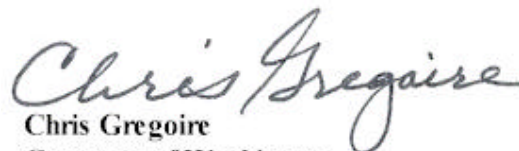
Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico



Brad Henry
Governor of Oklahoma



M. Michael Rounds
Governor of South Dakota



Chris Gregoire
Governor of Washington

cc: Western State Senate Coalition
House Western Caucus